

## Werk

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## **LIBER DIVISION REPORTS**

### **LIBER DIVISION ON PRESERVATION**

The Divisional meeting was held in Bern on 3 July 1997

1. The workplan of the Division was updated. The Division's aim to collect and evaluate existing mass deacidification processes was taken up and pursued by the ECPA who produced and published a very useful evaluation. Information about the Division is available both on the LIBER home page and on the ECPA web site. The European Register of Microform Masters is now available on RLIN. The main work of last year was the design of a questionnaire for, and the evaluation of the results of, a study into existing preservation policies in European Research Libraries. This work was commissioned by the Division, not only as a fact-finding exercise, but with the aim that existing preservation policies may be used as building blocks for a European preservation strategy. The results of this study were presented by Professor John Feather and are printed in the LIBER Quarterly.

At last year's divisional meeting it was agreed to add preservation education to the Division's programme. The open session of the Division was devoted to this topic and a successful workshop was held in Amsterdam in November 1996 in cooperation with the ECPA, the

International Council on Archives and the Marburg Archiv Schule. This workshop focussed on preservation management and was aimed at those in charge of preservation and conservation in libraries and archives. The participants came mainly (but not entirely) from Eastern, Central and Southern Europe. A whole range of topics was discussed and the speakers focussed on training methods and techniques for those subjects. The discussions among the participants formed a very useful and important part of the workshop and provided a stimulus for a more positive approach to problems and a more creative search for solutions. A range of issues that needed discussion in greater detail was identified and these were taken forward at a Summer School at Marburg in August 1997.

2. According to the LIBER regulations two members of the Standing Committee, Dr Herman Leskien and Madame Christiane Nicq, retired from the committee. The Division is grateful for their contributions to the work plan and to the annual divisional sessions. Two new members, Mrs Maria Luisa Cabral (National Library of Portugal) and Mr Algirdas Plioplys (National Library of Lithuania) were elected.
3. Future plans for the Division were discussed. Following the compilation of the report on preservation policies, the policies themselves are being collected and will need to be translated and analysed. Guidelines for the establishment of a preservation policy will be discussed. The Division hopes that the funds for this work will be available in 1997/1998. Further work is planned in the field of training for preservation management. The workshop and summer school may be extended to a wider

audience and to other European countries and we hope to be able to assist in the production of guidelines for good preservation management practice. It was proposed that the Division should compile a version of available preservation-friendly photocopiers and issue guidelines for good photocopying practice.

Next year's Annual General Meeting will address the conflicts between short-term gains and long-term benefits. Traditionally, libraries have taken a long-term view, be it in collection development, access or, of course, preservation. More recently, libraries are being compelled to do more with less and to do better with less. Ever diminishing resources, both financial and staff, and ever greater emphasis on efficiency put pressure on libraries. This pressure often leads to short-term decision making. Libraries move from crisis to crisis, are under constant pressure to justify their staffing needs, their collections and their very existence. This atmosphere is not conducive to reflection and to thinking carefully, to weighing all implications before taking any decision. To give but two examples. Many libraries now offer short-term contracts but is this the best way to develop a knowledge of the collections? Many libraries go in for extensive digitising programmes, but without giving much thought to the extreme volatility of the digital format, or without thinking through the resource implications for maintaining longer-term access to these formats. There are many more examples of this kind where libraries feel compelled to react to ever-increasing pressures and these reactions are often required quickly, leaving no time for consideration of possible long-term implications. Therefore decisions are made that may be beneficial in the short-term, but that are often detrimental in the long

term. Alternatively, decisions are not made that may lead to benefits in the longer term.

For our Division we will consider those subjects that best reflect the conflict between short-term expediency and long-term need and the choices that have to be made.

Mirjam Foot  
Chairman of the Division on Preservation

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## **LIBER ACCESS DIVISION - ANNUAL REPORT 1997**

(including the minutes of the Access Divisional Meeting on 3 July 1997)

### **1. Divisional Committee**

After the elections at the LIBER Annual General Conference 1996 in Malta the Access Professional Division is administered by a committee with the following composition:

- \* Dr Alex C. Klugkist, University Library Groningen, The Netherlands, divisional chairman (elected in 1996);
- \* Ms Susanne Berke, National Széchenyi Library, Budapest, Hungary, divisional secretary (elected in 1996);
- \* Mr Peter te Boekhorst, Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Münster, ordinary member (elected in 1995);

- \* Ms Christine Deschamps, Bibliothèque Universitaire René Descartes, Paris, France, ordinary member (elected in 1995);
- \* Mr Jan Erik Roed, University of Oslo Library, Norway, ordinary member (elected in 1996).

Susanne Berke, Jan Erik Roed and Alex Klugkist will be in charge till 2000, Ms Deschamps will be in charge till 1999.

Because Peter te Boekhorst reported that he most probably will not be able to attend the future annual meetings and for that reason would like to retreat as committee member, in 1997 one vacancy had to be fulfilled. Mr. Te Boekhorst is willing to function as corresponding member of the Access Division.

The members of the Access division unanimously supported the candidacy of Anna Planet at their meeting in Bern on Thursday, 3 July 1997. Anna Planet is deputy librarian of the Bibliotheca de Catalunya.

## **2. Committee membership**

Also in 1997 it was not feasible to get a good overview of all Access Division members, because many institutional members of LIBER still did not answer the questionnaires in which they were asked to give the names of the representatives for the respective LIBER divisions.

The LIBER Secretariat was so kind to take care for a general mailing to all LIBER members with the agenda and the invitation to the Access Division members to attend the above mentioned meeting on 3 July 1997.

## **3. Leipzig meeting, 21 and 22 March 1997**

The Access Division and the Collection Development Division were invited to participate in the organisation of a two-

days-librarians conference during the Leipzig Bookfair on 21 and 22 March 1997. Other participants were the University Library of Leipzig, the Bundesverein Deutscher Bibliothekare (BDB), the British Council and the Leipzig Bookfair Organisation. The theme of this conference was: "Relations between East and West Europe in the field of bookmarket, collection development and access to information. The two LIBER divisions jointly invited part of the speakers. The travel and accommodation expenses of many of the East European colleagues were funded by the organising participants.

About ten speakers gave lectures on the topics of the conference theme with special reference to the situation in their own countries. As could be expected, all European countries face severe problems in the field of acquisitions, collection development and access to information. The differences between East and West Europe are so big, that it will take a long time before a unified Europe in relation to libraries and information will be established.

The conference was attended by more than 150 persons, for the greater part from Germany and many of them from the Baltic States, Czechia, Hungary, Polen, Russia and Slovakia. Only a minority belonged to the LIBER membership.

#### **4. Bern Conference, 1 - 5 July 1997**

##### **4.1 Session 2: "Teaching Access" on 2 July 1997**

The Access Division was responsible for the organisation of Session 2 of the Bern LIBER Annual General Conference 1997 with the theme: "Teaching Access".

Four speakers accepted the division's invitation to contribute to this session. Dr Rosmarie H. Fouad, Instruction Librarian of the Oboler Library of the Idaho State University,

USA gave a lecture on "Interactive Teaching Methods in Relation to Electronic Access".

Mr Fred Bosman, Coordinator of Library Services at the Groningen University Library, The Netherlands, read a paper about "Teaching Access in a University Library".

Mr Bredo Bernstein, Social Science Librarian at the Oslo University Library, Norway lectured on "The Critical Choice".

Finally mr Daniel Renoult, Head of the Direction of Information Systems at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris, France, spoke about "Accessing Information at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France".

Their contributions were very much appreciated. They will be published in one of the forthcoming issues of the *LIBER Quarterly ERLC*.

#### **4.2 Access Divisional Meeting on 3 July 1997**

The yearly Access Divisional Meeting took place in the Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek Bern on Thursday afternoon, 3 July 1997. The meeting was attended by about 75 persons. The divisional committee was represented by Christine Deschamps, Alex Klugkist and Erik Jan Roed. Unfortunately, Susanne Berke and Peter te Boekhorst were not able to come to Bern. The minutes of the Division meeting in Malta and the Annual Report 1996 were approved. A new board member was elected (see under 1. Divisional Committee): Anna Planet, deputy librarian of the Bibliotheca de Catalunya.

The Access Division members agreed to finalize the text of the concept Medium Term Programme (MTP) of the Division at the Paris Divisional Meeting in 1998.

The text of the MTP is as follows:



*Medium-Term-Programme of the Division of Access of LIBER**Scope statement*

The ACCESS Division of LIBER serves to foster and promote access to information resources for the benefit of the patrons of university and research libraries and to stimulate the development of modern information services.

*Goals*

1. Organisation of meetings and working groups concerning themes in the field of access to information.
2. Participation in initiatives, designed to facilitate the access to and free flow of information in Europe and abroad; encourage international linking of systems by application of modern network protocols.
3. Stimulate activities in the area of networking and promote the use of modern information technology.
4. Support the strategic IT-planning in libraries through meetings, seminars, working groups, and publications of its members.
5. Support of special projects in the area of information technology regarding access.
6. Reflections on marketing concepts and licensing models of information services and on economic aspects and copyright and fair use.
7. Promote standardization in areas vital for co-operation among libraries, such as resource sharing and linking the information world.

**Those who want to comment on it, are invited to do so before 1 May 1998.** Reactions should be sent to the chairman (Alex Klugkist, University Library Groningen, P.O.Box 559, NL-9700 AN Groningen, The Netherlands, Fax +31 50 363 4996, e-mail: a.c.klugkist@ub.rug.nl).

During the second part of the divisional meeting LIBER members got the opportunity to comment on the papers of the four above mentioned speakers of session 2.

Then the following six statements were presented for discussion:

1. Access to scholarly information in electronic form will not fully meet the needs of future generations of students and researchers.  
Books and journals in their traditional form will continue to be the best way to disseminate knowledge during the next decades.
2. An unbalanced move to electronic just-in-time service is not beneficial for students and researchers.
3. The process of scholarly communication will be predominantly electronic, especially in the field of science and bio-medicine, but to a lesser degree in the field of the humanities.
4. The current licence models prevent cost-benefit analysis that can clarify the relationship between periodical ownership versus full-text online access or versus electronic journals.
5. Libraries need to implement tools and techniques and seek ways to provide better access to information and materials not locally held, although the printed collections will continue to be a primary tool.
6. Integration of online catalogues and electronic bibliographical databases by userfriendly interfaces is an underestimated and underdeveloped item of library automation.

After an animated exchange of views the meeting was closed at six o'clock.

Alex C. Klugkist  
Chairman of the Division on Access